(b) The Indian side emphasised the growing shift to value-added products in our exports and suggested greater cooperation in the area of projects. The Australian side conveyed their interest in exploring the possibility of direct supply of rough diamonds to India and upgradation of technological capabilities in this field. Both sides also agreed to identify new areas of cooperation based on commonality of approach in different areas.

(c) The next meeting of the Indo-Australia Joint Ministerial Commission is likely to be held in New Delhi by January, 1991 to discuss issues of bilateral cooperation.

Agreement with Radisson Hotel Corporation of USA

1925. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL :
SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) what were the terms of contract entered into between ITDC and Radisson Hotel Corporation, USA;

(b) whether any discussions were held by ITDC with other International Groups of Hotel before entering into the agreement with M/s. Radisson; if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, what are the main reasons for selecting Radisson in comparison to other such corporations ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK): (a) The broad terms of agreement are given in the Annexure. [*See* Appendix CLV, Annexure No. 57]

(b) and (c) ITDC held preliminary negotiations with two other well-known international hotel chains. While one party did not show interest, the other party's interest was linked with its hold on the management of ITDC hotels. This was not acceptable to ITDC as it was not in the interest of Government. However, the proposal received from M/s Radisson Hotel Corporation of USA was considered mutually beneficial.

Visit of Foreign Tourists to J & K

1926. SHRI RAM DAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state the number of foreign tourists who visited J&K during 1988, 1989 and upto July 1990 year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM (SHRI SATYA PAL MALIK): As per the information available from the State Government, the number of foreign tourists who visited Kashmir Valley during the last 2 years and first 4 months of the current year are as given below:

Year	No. of foreign tourists
1988	59,938
1989	67,762
1990 (Jan-April)	1,896

The figures for later months are not available.

देश में कपड़े की आवश्यकता

1927. श्री राम नरेश यादव : क्या वस्त्र मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) भारत की बढ़ती हुई आबादी को देखते हुए कितने मीटर वस्त्रों की

आवश्यकता है और क्या यह आवश्यकता के अनुसार उपलब्ध है; और

(ख) वर्ष 1950-51 से आज तक वस्त्र की प्रति व्यक्ति उपलब्धता क्या रही है और यदि वह कम है, तो आठवीं पंचवर्षीय योजना में इस आवश्यकता को पूरा करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या कदम उठाये जा रहे हैं?

वस्त्र मंत्री साथ में खाद्य प्रसंस्करण उद्योग मंत्रालय का अतिरिक्त प्रभार (श्री शरद यादव): (क) वर्ष 1987-88 के लिए कपड़े की कुल आवश्यकता का अनुमान 16936 मिलियन मीटर लगाया गया था। इस उतपलब्धता से समग्र आवश्यकता की पूर्ति हो गई थी।

(ख) प्रति व्यक्ति कपड़े की उपलब्धता जोकि वर्ष 1951 में 10.99 मीटर थी वर्ष 1989 में बढ़कर 16.41 मीटर हो गई। कपड़े का उत्पादन देश में कपड़े की कुल आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करता है।

Aggregate sanction released by IDBI, ICICI and IFCI

1928. SHRI SURESH KALMADI: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the aggregate sanction released by IDBI, ICICI and IFCI in the months from April to June, 1990; and

(b) what are the reasons for the sanctions being drastically less during the corresponding period in 1989?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) and (b) Industrial Development Bank of India (IDBI) has reported that the aggregate sanctions by IDBI, IFCI, and ICICI during April to June 1990 were Rs. 1602.23 crore as compared to Rs. 2223.07 crore during April to June, 1989. The slackness in the pace of sanctions appears to be a short term phenomenon and could be explained by the rapid growth in sanctions during the preceding two year period i.e., 1988-89 and 1989-90. The slackness in growth of sanctions also is due to absence of large sized projects coming for assistance during the period April to June, 1990. Based on pipeline projects, institutions expect to complete the year with reasonable growth.

Status of "Freely convertible currency" for Rupee

1929. SHRI N. E. BALARAM: SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry have examined the proposal put forward by the Chief Minister of Orissa at the National Development Council to the effect that Rupee be given the status of freely convertible currency;

(b) if so, what are the advantage of the proposal; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI ANIL SHASTRI): (a) to (c) The Government does not favour making the Indian rupee a freely convertible currency at this stage. The way to make the Rupee strong is not making it convertible but an integrated policy to achieve higher growth, improve the balance of payments situation and to reduce trade deficit.

Misuse of Liberalised Policy and Procedure by the Importers/ Exporters

1930. SHRI SURENDRA SINGH THAKUR: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the importers/exporters have